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FLOOR DEBATE

January 28, 2002 LB 491

of Roads follows in terms of...of requiring that it be let to the lowest responsible bidder that's prequalified to bid on such a project, and this would be when the work is primarily local in nature, and the Department of Roads determines that it's in the public interest that the contract be let by the city or the county. It was...it was brought to us, I think, from the sense that in some cases and situations it's more efficient and more practical to...to allow this to be done in this fashion. The city of Lincoln, for example, lets bids on projects, I think it's virtually weekly, on Wednesdays, and the Department of Roads gears up for substantial bid lettings maybe 10 or 12 times a year, as I understand it. So in some cases it would be much quicker, more efficient and practical for...for this to be allowed to be done. The statutes, as they are constructed right now, simply don't allow for that discretion, so I think the committee felt that it was a good and practical suggestion. All the committee members supported the advancement of the bill, with one committee member, I guess, not present at the time. But all those who were present voted to advance the bill. There were no...there were no opponents who presented themselves at the hearing so, with that, I...and it has a small fiscal note of saving the Department of Roads a small amount of money because they would...would not...would apparently not have to invest quite as many man-hours perhaps in a particular local project or however many that they decide to let in this manner. So, with that, I will certainly try to respond to questions if I can, or I'll get the answers if I don't have the answers. And, with that, I'd ask the body's support in advancing LB 491.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Debate on advancement? Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I'm supportive of this bill, but I wanted to ask a couple questions of Senator Bromm, please.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Bromm, would you respond?

SENATOR BROMM: Yes, Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I don't know whether it's significant. I notice the counties did not testify on this. I assume that